

Ravalli County FSA Office
1709 N 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

County Committee Members

Anthony Collier, COC Chair
Hans McPherson, Vice Chair
Ted Heiland, Member
Julie Schramm, Min Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Coral Maxwell, Technician
Mary Jane Mohn, Technician
Curt Anderson, Director

Dates to Remember:

October – DCP/CRP Payments begin being issued
October 15 – CDP Signup Begins
October 26 & 27 – Farmers Union Annual Convention, Great Falls
November 2 –COC ballots to be mailed to producers
November 14-16 – Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, Bozeman
November 11-13 – Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Missoula
December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey
December 3 – COC ballots must be returned by close of business
December 4-7 – Grain Growers Annual Convention, Great Falls
December 14-16 – Stockgrowers Annual Convention, Billings

Links:

<http://www.usda.gov>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/MT>
<http://www.bitterrootrcd.org>
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov>
<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/>
<http://extn.msu.montana.edu>



County Committee Election

REMEMBER:

In November be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot. Eligible voters will begin receiving ballots following November 2, 2007. If you do not receive a ballot within two weeks following November 2nd, and you are in LAA1 (Northern Ravalli County Line to Willoughby Ln), please contact the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 3rd.

GET INVOLVED, HAVE A VOICE IN THE
ADMINISTRATION OF USDA PROGRAMS AT THE
LOCAL LEVEL**VOTE**

2008 NAP Important Dates

| Crop | Application Closing Date |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types | March 15, 2008 |
| Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages | March 15, 2008 |
| Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.) | March 15, 2008 |
| Honey | December 1, 2007 |

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Curt Anderson, Ravalli County CED at 1709 N 1st Street in Hamilton, MT.
PHONE: (406) 363-1444 or
EMAIL: curtis.anderson@mt.usda.gov

NAP Final Date for Honey Producers

The final date for honey producers to file a 2007 NAP Application for Payment is December 1, 2007 or within 30 days of the placement of hives. There are no late-filed provisions for the Application for Payment. A complete application for payment includes acceptable verifiable production evidence. If the production is not sold by January 2, 2008, a measurement service can be requested to verify the production.

****December 1, 2007 is also the final date to purchase 2008 NAP coverage for Honey.*

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

AFIDA was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor ownership and purchases of U.S. agricultural land by foreign persons.

CRP Continuous Sign Up

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at anytime under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. For more information on Continuous CRP contact the FSA office or website.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Begins October 15

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Reminder: Providing Copies to Insurance Companies

Private insurance representatives are now required to provide the FSA county office a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agent.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the Acreage Report (FSA-578) and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies. If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be an income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made

Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using direct deposit. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the office so we can update our files to ensure continued uninterrupted service.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ravalli County FSA
1709 N 1st St
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PERMIT # 54

**Container Approved for Honey**

Honey producers requesting marketing assistance loans may now pack their honey in approved five-gallon plastic containers. The containers must hold about 60 pounds of honey, have a tight fitting cover, have strong handles, and be lined with an FDA-approved low-density polyethylene liner.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed policies for implementing NAIS for protecting U.S. livestock and poultry from potentially devastating pests and diseases through an identification system that enabled faster response with more precision.

NAIS consists of three components: 1) premise registration, 2) animal identification, and 3) animal tracking. Premise registration is the foundation of the NAIS and is the first component to be implemented.

Premise registration is voluntary, free, quick, and does not commit producers to participate in the other components of NAIS. To find out how to register a premise, visit USDA's NAIS website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.